

an act criminal. The writers point out that English criminal law became more humane in the last century and more rational in this, but the two are not inconsistent. The terroristic repression of the old law did not stop crime, while the liberal idea of a sentence proportionate to the damage caused by the crime was harsh, for it ignored the criminal's temptations, character and antecedents. Modern criminal administration is a branch of our social services and one of the least controversial, for the criminal cannot be heard to object to our efforts to reform him, though he may think, as did Sir Godfrey Lushington when head of the Home Office,

that no reformation is possible while in prison. Different considerations apply to special schools and Borstal Institutions for the young and the probation system to reform those susceptible. But with them must go preventive detention for the habitual criminal. This trend is entirely in accord with the views of eugenists, who, though recognising that in a sense men are born equal, perceive that a number of criminals are persons of abnormally poor hereditary gifts; and for practical measures for dealing with the social problem group abstract principles of liberty and equality do not provide a satisfactory basis. CECIL BINNEY.

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## OTHER NOTICES

**Charlesworth, B.** *The Eternal Art: Being a speech, in his own defence, by the God of War.* London, 1945. W. H. Allen. Pp. 48. Price 9d.

The only point of special eugenic interest in this pamphlet is the part that deals with population. Here the author makes a very persuasive statement of the neo-Malthusian view, and although one sympathizes with his desire for a smaller population, the general trend of his observations does not seem to conform to the opinions held by the majority of demographers. But his appeal for a spirit of world unity cannot be too heavily underlined, and one welcomes the suggestion that a cheerful view may be taken of the atom bomb because it may prove the one thing needful to force upon mankind the acceptance of the ideal World State.

K. H.

**Marriage Guidance Booklets.** No. 1: *Sex in Marriage.* London, 1946. Marriage Guidance Council (78 Duke Street, W.1). Pp. 20. Price 6d. (Postage 2½d.)

This pamphlet is designed to tell engaged and married couples, particularly those who would not apply themselves to reading a larger book, all they may need to know about sex adjustment in marriage. It includes a list of books for further reading and recommends two further Marriage Guidance booklets—*Sex Difficulties in the Husband* and *Sex Difficulties in the Wife*—to those couples whose sex life is unsatisfactory. These booklets should be very helpful to doctors, social workers and others who may be called upon to advise young people on marriage.

K. H.